

Application No.: 10/739,439

Case No.: 58797US002

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 3, please replace the paragraph that starts on line 16 with the word "In" and ends on line 30 with the word "medium" with the following amended paragraph:

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of making transparent fused crystalline ceramic particles according to the present invention, the method comprising:

flame forming a melt, the melt comprising collectively at least 65 (in some embodiments, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 99, or even at least 100) percent by weight Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2 , based on the total weight of the melt);

cooling the melt to provide transparent fused crystalline ceramic], eutectic alumina-zirconia material]; and

crushing the transparent fused crystalline ceramic to provide the transparent fused crystalline ceramic particles (e.g., abrasive particles). In some embodiments, the flame forming is conducted at no more than 2500°C (in some embodiments, in a range from 1900°C to 2500°C, or even in a range from 2000°C to 2500°C). In some embodiments, cooling the melt may be facilitated, for example, by immersing the melt into a cooling medium, such as a fluid (e.g., water), and/or between rollers (e.g., steel rollers). Further, the rollers may also be immersed in the cooling medium.